Name of State/U.T.	Closed Mills
Tamil Nadu	62
Uttar Pradesh	19
West Bengal	15
Delhi	3
Manipur	1
TOTAL	277

Development of Handicrafts in Bihar

1853. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the ongoing programmes and schemes formulated for promotion and development of handicrafts in the selected areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and provided for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen during the last three years in Bihar; and

(d) the details of new schemes taken up/proposed to be taken up for upgradation of skills of artisans and craftsmen through institutional support?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ongoing programmes and schemes in operation through out the country are reviewed from time to time. The programmes and schemes reviewed include: training; survey & studies; marketing development programmes; opening of new emporia and renovation/ expansion of existing emporia; workshed-cum-housing; group insurance; common facility centre; health package and member education programme; etc.

(c) During last three years a sum of Rs. 414.04 lakhs has been provided to the State of Bihar under plan schemes which interalia target upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen.

(d) The details of new schemes taken up/proposed for upgrading the skill of artisans through institutional support include: training for trainers; supply of modern tools and equipment and member education programme, etc.

Stabilization of Cotton Economy

1854. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a demand for the establishment of minimum prices for cotton;

(b) whether Government are aware of the frequent distortions in demand for cotton;

(c) what institutional steps Government propose to ensure stabilization of the cotton economy; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) A reference has been received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh suggesting *inter alia* to fix support price for all the important crops.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton is announced by the Ministry of Agriculture taking into consideration the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments (including the Government of Andhra Pradesh) and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevent factors which include cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, parity between price paid and received by the farmers, international prices, effect on industrial cost structure, general price level and cost of living etc.

(b) The domestic consumption for the last three are as under:

Year	Quantity (in lakh bales of 170 kgs each)
1995-96	154.29
1996-97	170.16
1997-98	158.88*

(*as estimated by Cotton Advisory Board in its meeting dated 19.11.1998). Demand for cotton is decided by many factors including supply, general economic situation in the country and abroad, etc.

(c) and (d) Apart from the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. which intervenes in the market when market price of kapas touches Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government and the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) analyses the overall cotton scenario in the country. The Government of India, from time to time, releases quota for the export of raw cotton after considering various aspects and balancing various interests. The cotton situation is closely being watched. The plan to implement Technology Mission on Cotton Development is in advanced stage of finalisation.

राष्ट्रीय कपड़ा निगम और इसकी सहायक वस्त्र इकाइयों की लेखा परीक्षा

1855. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कई वर्षों से राष्ट्रीय कपड़ा निगम (एन०टी०सी०) और इसकी सहायक कपड़ा मिलों के खाते की लेखा परीक्षा नहीं की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात और अन्य राज्यों में कपडा मिलों तथा उनके कार्यालयों में वित्तीय गडबडियां की गई हैं और वहां से संपत्तियां गायब हैं;

(घ) क्या इस संबंध में कोई उच्च स्तरीय जांच की गई है;

(ङ) राष्ट्रीय कपड़ा निगम के सभी प्रभागों की लेखा-परीक्षा कराने हेतु क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा): (क), (ख) और (ङ) जी, नहीं। एन०टी०सी० की सभी मिलों और उनके सहायक निगमों के लेखाओं के बारे में लेखा परीक्षा वर्ष 1996-97 तक पूरी हो गई है। वर्ष 1997-98 के लिए लेखा परीक्षा की जा रही है।

(ग) और (घ) एन०टी०सी० (धारक कंपनी) ने सांविधिक सूचना देने की प्रणाली बनाई है जिसके द्वारा जब कभी भी गुम परिसंपत्ति अथवा वित्तीय अनियमितताओं आदि के बारे में कोई भी सूचना प्राप्त होती है तो उस पर विभागीय जांच, एफ०आई०आर० दर्ज कराने आदि जैसी उपयुक्त कार्यवाई की जाती है।

(च) वर्ष 1996-97 तक एन०टी०सी० की वार्षिक रिपोर्टों के साथ लेखा परीक्षित लेखा सदन के सभा पटल पर रख दिए हैं।

Closure of Azam Jahi Mill in Andhra Pradesh

1856. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Azam Jahi Mills, a public sector Textile Mill in Warangal District in Andhra Pradesh has recently been closed down throwing thousands of workers out of employment and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that forty four Workers' unions have highlighted their problem of unemployment and livelihood; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate these workers and to bring the mill back on way to industrial recovery?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The Azam Jahi Mills, Warangal has not been closed down. However, the production activities in the mill have been suspended due to non-viability of operation and shortage of working capital. The wages of permanent workers are being paid.